AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please **AMEND** paragraph [0042] as follows:

FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating an example chip slicer [[62]]60 and feedback filter contents [[72]]70 in a decision feedback equalizer [[12]]10 according to an embodiment of the present invention. In the illustrated embodiment, the DFE [[12]]10 comprises a signal combiner [[52]]50, a chip slicer [[62]]60, and feed back filter [[72]]70. The feed back filter [[72]]70 comprises a series of tap contents that each contain decisions from the slicer [[62]]60. Each set of tap contents is shown as "Tc" in FIG. 4. Advantageously, the DFE [[12]]10 can be switched so that the tap contents in the feed back filter [[72]]70 are updated only during the data portion of a frame.

Please **AMEND** paragraph [0043] as follows:

For certain block coded digital communication systems, for example, the IEEE 802.11b 5.5 Mb/s data rate system that uses CCK code words, the effects of DFE error propagation can be reduced by improving the reliability of slicer decisions that are stored in the tap contents of the feed back filter [[72]]70. In one embodiment, chips 3, 4, 7, and 8 of each CCK code word are known to contain more reliable information. Thus, these slicer decisions can be selectively fed back into the slicer [[62]]60 to improve the reliability of future slicer decisions.

Please **AMEND** paragraph [0044] as follows:

Additionally, once the slicer [[62]]60 has provided more reliable information, this information can be stored in the tap contents of the feed back filter [[72]]70 and the known correlation between the chips in the code word can be exploited to modify the older tap contents in the feed back filter [[72]]70 based on the more reliable information. For example, after slicing each of the chips 3, 4, 7, and 8 and placing them into the first tap contents of the feed back filter [[72]]70, the tap contents of the feed back filter [[72]]70 that is two chips old can be replaced with a more

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reliable value by modifying the third tap contents of the feed back filter [[72]]70. The tap contents are appropriately mixed and combined to create the new estimate to be fed to the chip slicer [[62]]60. Advantageously, after startup this ensures that the contents of feed back filter [[72]]70 taps 3 and higher will reflect the increased accuracy of the modified slicer input and thereby decrease DFE error propagation.

Please **AMEND** paragraph [0050] as follows:

Thus, as k loops from 1 to 8, the sample that is two chips old is modified pursuant to the correlation properties of the CCK code words as previously described in the CCKchip equations. After several chips have been processed, the majority of the tap contents in feed back filter [[72]]70 will advantageously be based on the more accurate slicer input.